

Lynne Battaglia '74

AS THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, LYNNE BATTAGLIA '74 IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WOMEN IN THE STATE AND AN INSPIRATION FOR EVERY SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENT AND GRADUATE. SELECTED AS ONE OF MARYLAND'S TOP 100 WOMEN BY *WARFIELD'S BUSINESS RECORD* IN 1996, BATTAGLIA DIRECTS THE ACTIVITIES OF MORE THAN 60 ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS, PROSECUTING

Battaglia has a long history of public service. She earned her master's and bachelor's degrees in international relations from American University, and pursued doctoral studies in American government at Georgetown University. Before assuming her current presidentially-appointed position in 1993, Battaglia served as Chief of Staff to United States Senator Barbara Mikulski in the early 1990s; as Chief of the Criminal Investigation Division at the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, from 1988-91; as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Office of Special Litigation, Tax Division of the Department of Justice, from 1984-87, where she received the Outstanding Attorney Award in both 1984 and 1987; and as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office in Baltimore, from 1978-82.

With such a powerful curriculum vitae, one would presume Battaglia devoted all her energies solely to her employers. However, she also devotes the same intensity to her alma mater, the University of Maryland School of Law. She is president of the Alumni Association, a member of the Board of Visitors and an adjunct professor.

As president of the Alumni Association, Battaglia encourages School of Law



DOUG McDONOUGH

CRIMINALS AND DEFENDING CIVIL SUITS. HER CASES VARY FROM VIOLENT CRIMES, TO WHITE COLLAR CRIMES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. "THE FASCINATING PART OF IT IS TO TRY TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE," BATTAGLIA EXPLAINS. THAT MEANS DECIDING HOW TO MAXIMIZE FEDERAL RESOURCES TO SOLVE CRIMES AND BRING THE PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE IN MARYLAND.

BY JONATHAN KALSTROM

graduates to become part of the group and involved with the school. She also manages the alumni board, which for the first time ever is divided into four committees—Career Services, Membership, Events and Awards, and Nominating—to maximize each participant's potential. As a member of the Board of Visitors, Battaglia heads the Marketing and Public Relations Committee and is involved with the Strategic Issues Committee.

Since beginning as a visiting professor in the school's clinical programs in 1983, Battaglia has taught various courses as an adjunct professor, including criminal procedure, counseling and negotiation and women and the law. "I really like being with the students and I think I get as much from them as they get from me," she says. "I like talking to

them about the issues because it reinforces the importance of having laws. I know it sounds philosophical, but it is wonderful to be in a place where people are asking questions rather than just accepting things as they are." In addition, Battaglia has been involved in setting up an environmental law internship at the United States Attorney's Office with the law school. With at least one student per semester in the program, Battaglia says it helps them "hone their skills" by working on actual dockets.

What motivates Battaglia to devote such time and work to the law school? "As we support the School of Law we get better lawyers, and better lawyers are important to me," she explains. "So it comes out of a sense of real commitment to the law school." The University of Maryland School of Law, Battaglia says, not only provided her with an excellent education, but also enabled her to develop her career in this state. During school, she served as Articles Editor of the *Maryland Law Review* in addition to finishing Order of the Coif. After graduation, she began her career working in the area of estate administration at the Baltimore firm of Semmes, Bowen & Semmes until 1978. The people Battaglia knew from law school provided her with a network whom she could call

upon for recommendations. She continues to keep in touch with classmates. "The people I went to school with, and studied with, are the people who I practice with."

The School of Law and her professional pursuits are only part of Battaglia's life. Her 20-year-old son, Scott, is a junior at LaSalle University where he is majoring in both english and psychology, and is considering law school. In her spare time, Battaglia takes classes and plays on her computer. Half Italian, Battaglia enjoys preparing Italian cuisine, specializing in hosting and catering multi-night dinner parties.

Battaglia is also an avid reader and movie buff. "I see every movie or every TV program that deals with lawyers," she says. She is a fan of such movies as "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Verdict," and a variety of law-related television programs, including "Law and Order," "L.A. Law," "Homicide," and "NYPD Blue." "That's just a passion of mine." With her distinguished career, various cases and pursuits in her background, she could readily write her own scripts!

Jonathan Kalstrom is a freelance writer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, who specializes in business, law and trade publications.

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